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Worldwide Report

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

No. 329



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INDIAN ENVIRONMENTALISTS REPORT ON VISIT TO PRC

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 9 Oct 81 p 6

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 8--An Indian environmental delegation, which returned early this week after an official visit to China found its host way ahead in pollution control technicians. There was nationwide cleanliness. Millions of trees had been planted.

The main Chinese concern has been the ecological imbalance caused by soil erosion and deforestation. During the civil war forests had been denuded. Now there is adequate emphasis, through the communes in rehabilitating such forests.

The delegation was impressed by the care taken to preserve millions of trees. Most were not more than 20 years old and well-trimmed, their branches did not spread beyond ten feet. Each plant had pre-concrete pillars for support.

In Shanghai alone two million trees have been planted. Elsewhere four-to-five-deep rows of trees could be seen on roadsides.

The leader of the delegation, Mr B. B. Vohra, also chairman of the National Committee on Environmental Planning, which was set up under Mrs Gandhi's instructions in 1980, said in an interview that the delegation did not find any wasteland--it was used either for cultivation or growth of forests. Streets were washed every morning. There was not a single destitute of pavement dweller on the streets. Though the housing problem appeared to be poor no one was found sleeping on the pavements.

Mr Vohra said the Chinese were greatly interested in knowing how India was managing her environmental problems. A reciprocal visit by a Chinese team is expected in February-March 1982.

China had taken up the environmental problem in a big way in 1973. It set up a department directly responsible to the Central Cabinet. Besides, there were also environment protection bureaus under most municipalities and counties in the provinces. Environment staff throughout the country ran into thousands, Mr Vohra said.

He felt the Governmental system was such in China that it was easy to impose discipline on the people. The people, on the other hand, themselves believed in cleanliness.

Though the delegation's itinerary was prepared by the Chinese authorities the members of the team visited farflung places which included the capital, Beijing, Lanzhou, capital of Gansu province, Xian, capital of Shaanxi province, Hangzhou (Shanghai) and Guangzhou (Canton).

Mr Vohra said the Chinese Government made it a policy to be very selective in locating new industries. Existing plants were made to follow all norms concerning the pollution problem. Though all establishments were Government-owned, they were still liable to fines and punishments.

This was one reason why they were able to control their population growth, which was 1.1 per cent against India's 2.4 per cent, couples with a child were singled out for special treatment while others with two or more children, were pruned upon.

There was however, a shocking absence of birds. Old Chinese scrolls with birds painted on them were not to be seen anywhere.

The reason could be attributed to the mass killing of sparrows several years ago under orders from Chairman Mao who believed that the sparrow ate up a large quantity of grain at a time when China needed them most.

CSO: 5000/7007

PAPER CALLS ON FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ACT ON BARRIER REEF

Melbourne THE AGE in English 1 Oct 81 p 13

[Text]

IN 1975 Federal Parliament voted to have the entire Great Barrier Reef declared a marine park. While the move originated with the Whitlam Government, it had the enthusiastic support of the then Liberal/NCP Opposition. At last, it seemed, this great natural wonderland would have the protection it deserved. That was six years ago, but very little progress has been made. Only 12,000 square kilometres, or about 5 per cent of the total area, has been placed under formal protection. Plans to declare a second 30,000-square-kilometre section, extending for 500 kilometres along the North Queensland coast, have bogged down in arguments between the Federal and Queensland Governments.

After nine months of discussions the two parties are still a long way from reaching agreement on the boundaries of this section. The Federal Government wants the boundaries to extend right to the low water mark. But the Queensland Government wants them kept to at least three nautical miles off the mainland. The dispute has wide ramifications. For control up to the low water mark — which is provided for in the 1975 act — would give the Commonwealth control over potentially destructive

shoreline and coastal development, over tourist depredations and, above all, over mining operations. The declaration of the Cairns section (as it is known) would make the search for oil and minerals within the declared park area, including major islands close to the mainland, illegal. What is potentially the greatest threat to the Reef's existence would thus be removed.

The Commonwealth has the power to declare areas of the Reef as a marine park any time it wishes. Instead it has tried to win Queensland's co-operation. This policy of co-operative protection has yet to prove itself. If it doesn't when the two parties meet again for talks next month, the Federal Government should take courage and declare the Cairns section a marine park, whether Queensland approves or not. The headstrong Queensland Government must be made to realise, one way or another, that the Great Barrier Reef is a priceless asset that belongs not just to Queenslanders but to the nation and to the world at large. As the Royal Commission into the Reef noted, "it is part of the world heritage", and the Federal Government owes it to present and future generations to see that this marine wonderland is preserved from everything that could endanger it.

CSO: 5000/75-9

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE FAVORS MINING IN NATIONAL PARKS

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 1 Oct 81 p 3

[Text]

There is no reason why mining exploration cannot be conducted in WA's national parks, according to a major report released yesterday.

But the report by a National Parks Authority Legislative Council select committee on WA's national parks also stresses that no exploration should be conducted in wilderness or scientifically reserved areas.

If this were the case, the report says, there is no reason why exploration cannot be conducted in areas under direct supervision of the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Evidence given to the committee by professional officers of the authority and other bodies said that damage was being caused by amateur prospectors and not by major mining companies.

The report says that conditions of mining should be laid down and administered by the NPWS if a find of "national importance" is located.

An environmental review and management plan should be made before the conditions are laid down.

National Parks Authority.

Suggestions that national parks should be entirely fenced does not find favour with the committee because of the costs involved.

Other recommendations are:

- A programme to eradicate feral cats and dingoes should be conducted nationally.

- An annual fee for entry into national parks should be included with motor-vehicle licences, on an optional basis.

- The State Government should negotiate with the Federal Government for the release of the army land on Rott-nest Island.

The secretary of the Conservation Council of WA, Mrs Barbara Churchwood, said that several points in the report appeared to be of concern to the council and they would compile detailed submissions once they had studied the report.

BRIEFS

AIR POLLUTION INCIDENT--"A 'disgusting and putrid' smell in the Brisbane industrial suburb of Hemmant caused children to dry-retch and reddened their eyes," a mother claimed last night. Mrs Kathy Parcell, of Garth Street, is angry about air pollution officers being available only in office hours--and arriving after a smell has disappeared. "I know we have to put up with a few things, living in an industrial area, but this smell was too much," she said. "My children, 7 and 5, had irritated eyes and noses. They also dry-retched. It was an ammonia or putrid kind of smell." The Labor MLA for Lytton, Mr Burns, last night confirmed Mrs Parcell's complaint. "We can be fined for throwing down a cigarette butt but we have to put up with companies pumping rubbish into our air," he said. "The air pollution people should have officers on call 24 hours a day." [Text] [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 1 Oct 81 p 11]

ASBESTOS CONTAMINATION--A new site has been chosen for the former asbestos town of Wittenoom. The WA Government said yesterday that the site was about six kilometres east of the present town. The honorary Minister Laurance said that he had been assured by the Commissioner for Health, Dr J.C. McNulty, that there was no way of guaranteeing that Wittenoom could be cleared, however much was spent removing asbestos fibres and covering exposed areas. The Government accordingly had a moral obligation to look after the health of future residents of the area and to establish a new site. Several sites had been examined and aerial photography and other survey work had been done. Preliminary work on town planning had also been undertaken. The sites closer to the town had not been acceptable for health reasons and problems of size. Mr Laurance said he had told the Wittenoom health and works committee that he had discussed water and power requirements with the Public Works Department and the State Energy Commission. [Text] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 3 Oct 81 p 5]

CSO: 5000/7509

ENVIRONMENTALISTS TERM RIVER PROTECTION BILL INADEQUATE

Auckland NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 14 Oct 81 p 5

[Text] Wellington--The Save the Rivers Campaign Organisation said yesterday that planned Government legislation would not help to protect wild and scenic rivers.

The Water and Soil Conservation Amendment Bill proposes steps to protect rivers, streams and lakes, but Save the Rivers told a parliamentary select committee yesterday that the measures were not acceptable or effective.

Mr A.J. Brunt, the convener of the campaign's wild and scenic rivers action committee, said the bill "merely sets up a judicial mechanism whereby certain official groups can try to gain protection for a river."

"Moreover, at the end of the arduous procedures proposed, the Minister of Works and Development, the nation's chief power investigation executive, will have the ability to veto the decision to protect a river."

Save the Rivers, supported by nine environmental and recreational organisations, said it wanted special-purpose legislation outside the Water and Soil Conservation Act. That should "clearly assert that our most outstanding wild and scenic rivers will be protected over the long term for the enjoyment of future generations.

Clearly Set Aside

"Once a core group of rivers has been clearly and promptly set aside, we believe that recreation and conservation groups will accept as a secondary level of protection for our other impressiver rivers, the sort of hearings procedures propose' by this bill."

Under the bill, applications for water conservation orders are made to the minister, who must refer them to the National Water and Soil Conservation Authority.

The authority, after consulting other bodies, recommends to the minister whether the application should be treated as an application for a national water conservation order or a local water conservation notice.

National orders go back to the authority for consideration, and submissions, while local notices are considered, with submissions, by a regional water board.

The bill includes provisions for an inquiry by the Planning Tribunal into draft orders, of the authority's recommendation that an application be declined.

Another section provides that the Governor-General makes a national order, on the advice of the minister, who would have considered recommendations of the authority or Planning Tribunal.

The minister must lay before Parliament a written statement setting out the reasons for his decision if he decides not to advise the Governor-General that an order be made.

Canoeists Critical

Canoeing organisations also criticised the bill.

A private company, Canoe Safaris (NZ) Ltd, told the select committee that the bill would not grant permanent protection for a "priceless asset." There was no national framework for the allocation of resources between competing demands of recreation, tourism and hydro-electricity.

The Palmerston North Canoe Club said there would be little protection if groups like regional and united councils were not bound to abide by the conditions of a water conservation order, but had only to take them into account.

CSO: 5000/9049

ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF ALUMINUM SMELTER NOTED

Auckland NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 17 Oct 81 p 1

[Text] A second aluminium smelter would have a marked effect on the pace of hydro-electricity developments and bring forward the investigation of many smaller and environmentally sensitive rivers.

This was one of the findings of the Commission for the Environment in its audit of an environmental impact report on the Aramoana smelter planned by South Pacific Aluminium Ltd.

The commission called for a full study of the implications of faster electricity development which would result from the smelter.

The loss of free-flowing river systems, the flooding of productive land and the removal of fisheries and other recreational assets would occur earlier than if no smelter was built, the commission found.

Pollution

A rise in power station construction would mean less time for environmental investigations.

Sulphur dioxide and other pollutants would increase. Agricultural land would be mined for more coal.

The closest parallel was with the situation which had arisen in the early 1970s over the proposal to raise the level of Lake Manapouri, the commission said.

But the consequences of the smelter would not be identified with a single lake or river, such as the Clutha. They would probably be felt progressively as smaller and more sensitive rivers were investigated for their hydro potential.

The audit deliberately avoided taking a "for or against" stand on the smelter, said the Commissioner for the Environment, Mr K.W. Piddington.

But it would be impossible to place a smelter or any similar industry at Aramoana without substantial impact on the local environment, he said.

There would be a complete change in the character of the Aramoana spit and both sides of the lower Otago Harbour.

Mr Piddington, said the commission, had ended up taking a more cautious view of the project than its advocates.

The audit found that the impact report by South Pacific Aluminium was comprehensive and of a high standard.

The expressed intentions of the company to protect public health values was "clearly excellent," said the commission. The company had said it had already investigated practically every aspect of environmental significance.

Shortcomings

However, the report had given an optimistic view of the information gathered so far, conveying the impression that the environmental impact of the project would be slight. This conflicted with the commission's own analysis which stressed that the impact would be "quite important."

The report suffered from other shortcomings, the commission found.

A sketch of the proposed plant, for example, had shown no smoke or steam plume although these were a feature of established smelters.

The perspective of the plant had also been flattened out, suggesting the smelter would be less dominant in the landscape than would actually be the case.

The impact of the project on the social environment was not clearly set out and the report had under-estimated the impact of the plant on the coastal ecosystem.

Destruction

The ecosystem would be under stress which could lead to significant deterioration, the audit said. An area of tidal wildlife habitat would be lost.

The Aramoana and Te Ngaru communities would be destroyed and the quality of life of other harbour communities disrupted.

Up to 1600 new jobs would be created over the next 10 years if the smelter were built, putting pressure on housing and social services.

The commission recommended that an independent committee be set up to continuously monitor environmental impacts of the smelter.

The general manager of South Pacific Aluminium, Mr J.G. Smith, said the company disagreed with some of the opinions in the audit. But it was pleased at the recognition of the high standard of the impact report.

"At this stage we are still engaged in further research and investigations to provide a more advanced picture of the proposal for the Planning Tribunal."

The completion of the audit coincided with the announcement that one of the partners in the consortium, Alusuisse, was withdrawing from the project.

The audit was still required under the National Development Act and, while any revived project would not include the Alusuisse Caster II sheet metal plant, the commission considered the change would not alter the main findings of the audit.

CSO: 5000/9049

BRIEFS

ASBESTOS LEVELS--Wellington (Press Association)--The Health Department is to tighten controls on the allowable level of asbestos in the air. From October 31 the permitted concentration of asbestos fibres to which people may be exposed will be reduced. The department's deputy director of public health, Dr John Stoke, said the concentration of asbestos fibres, other than blue asbestos, would be reduced from two fibres a millilitre of air to one fibre a millilitre of air. "The permissible concentration for blue asbestos remains unchanged at 0.2 fibres a millilitre of air," he said. The results of a review by the Health Department, other government departments, industry and union representatives, was in line with the latest international trends in the control limits of asbestos exposure, Dr Stoke said. "These changes in control limits will further the department's commitment to ensure a safe environment for workers exposed to asbestos fibre." [Text] [Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 14 Oct 81 p 10]

WATER RIGHTS--A rehearing of water rights granted to build the high dam on the Clutha River at Clyde will be sought by the Environmental Defence Society. The water rights were granted by the Planning Tribunal last year when it was said that electricity from the dam was urgently required for the proposed Aramoana smelter. "It is now clear the urgency has gone, and it may be that the smelter will not proceed at all," said the society's executive officer, Mr Gary Taylor. The tribunal had preferred the high dam to the less environmentally damaging low dam as it would generate electricity three years sooner, he said. With the urgency gone there was no basis for that preference, he said, and the society would apply to the tribunal for a rehearing. [Text] [Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 16 Oct 81 p 8]

CSO: 5000/9049

POLLUTION THREATENS PANGASINAN

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 23 Oct 81 p 31

[Text]

Pangasinan Gov. Aguedo F. Agbayani has brought into focus the gravity of the environmental problem in the province and called for cooperative efforts to solve the problem during a seminar workshop on environmental protection recently which was participated in by mayors and provincial officials.

The governor called attention to reports of UN experts J. R. Prosser, and Dr. Menachem Lourie, who is in Pangasinan to design the Pangasinan Integrated Area Development (PIAD) project, as follows:

1) "Extensive sedimentation due to erosion and indiscriminate tailings disposal has se-

verely affected the irrigation system in the lower Agno, particularly in the Agno River Irrigation System (ARIS). It is estimated that at least 27,000 hectares of a total area of approximately 45,000 hectares has been adversely affected by siltation of canals, laterals and paddy land in the lower Agno basin."

2) "The siltation/pollution problems of the Bued/Pantalan River Systems are currently being studied by a Philippine government inter-agency team. Preliminary evidence indicates that siltation and toxic metals (the latter almost certainly resulting from indiscriminate mines tailings practices) have caused serious depletion in aquatic flora and fauna in the lower Bued and the Bued/Pantalan estuary."

3) "A recent environmental problem directly related to mines tailings disposal has emerged in the Eguia river system.

"Fish and invertebrate kills and damage to rice and other crops were observed by residents in the downstream water courses, on flood plains affected and in the Eguia river estuary and Dasol Bay."

4) "The dominant environmental problem in the catchment appears to be oxygen depletion and bacteriological contamination due to poor industrial and domestic waste disposal, primarily in the Calasiao-Dagupan area."

The governor underscored the fact that although the pollution problem is serious, at this time however many people are not yet aware of it.

"If these pollution problems are not remedied, time will come when our production of food products such as rice, fish and vegetables will be so depleted and reduced that our people will suffer from very high prices of food and even from hunger and starvation," he said.

BILL ESTABLISHES PENALTIES FOR MARINE POLLUTION

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 18 Sep 81 p 7

[Text]

THE Sri Lanka government has just approved a bill that will inflict both civil and criminal liability on anyone found guilty of causing pollution which is discharged or escapes into Sri Lankan waters.

The Marine Pollution Prevention Bill means that in the case of criminal liability anyone convicted of the offence will be liable to a fine exceeding Rupees 1 million.

In the case of civil liability the owner of the vessel could be made liable for compensation in a civil suit.

During the second reading of the bill, Minister of Trade and Shipping Mr Lath Athulathmudali said that Sri Lanka's southern coast especially off Devinuwara is in constant danger of pollution.

All the oil tankers that route from West Africa to East Asia, particularly Japan, travel within three miles of Devinuwara. The fishing industry on the southern coast would be very seriously affected if there was pollution.

The tourist industry on the southern and western

coasts would also be seriously affected.

The minister said that together with the bill the government has also proposed to the Inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation (Imco) to set up a traffic separation scheme for the southern coast off Devinuwara.

Under the Imco proposals all ships carrying more than 2,000 tons of oil in bulk or as cargo would have to take compulsory insurance or be guilty of a criminal offence.

The minister said that every ship entering Sri Lankan waters would have to keep a record of any oil or pollutant it sees on Sri Lanka waters and report it to the marine pollution prevention authority.

The transfer of oil at sea would also be subject to special permission and restrictions would also be imposed on the cleaning of ships off the coast.

The minister said that the government was also seeking enabling provision under the bill, as and when it considers it proper, to implement the international conventions relating to maritime pollution. The bill was passed in all three stages.

INVESTMENT OUTLAYS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DESCRIBED

Warsaw INWESTYCJE I BUDOWNICTWO in Polish No 5 May 81 pp 23-32

[Article by Miroslaw Gorczyca]

Investments in the Area of Environmental Protection

[Text] The constant growth in the world's population; development of material production; depletion of free, undeveloped land reserves; extermination of certain species of flora and fauna; decline in the amounts of mineral resources; and, above all, deterioration of environmental conditions, which constitutes a menace to human health and life, have forced man to reorient his relation to the physical environment. Man's economic activity must result in a transformation of the environment. The problem lies in the necessity to minimize the consequences of changes in the environment, to utilize existing resources sensibly and to eliminate the negative effects of anthropogenic changes.

Environmental protection has many aspects; there are numerous means of realizing protective programs. They can be of a political, legal, technical, economic, cultural, educational and other nature.

Pollution of the environment and exploitation of its resources as well as the discharge of all kinds of waste are characterized by a strong increase in population growth and in industrial development, which are destructive to the environment. Among the disturbing effects, we must single out the concentration of pollutants in densely inhabited, industrialized and urbanized regions, over the threshold level of self-purifying environment capabilities, with a limited ability to eliminate harmful effects of violations. The irregularity to population distribution and of economic potential and the disproportions in utilizing the environment's resources cause ecological tensions and local or regional degradation; they also create a number of shortages (water, power, raw material and others). The growth of environmental pollution and the unreasonable use of the environment's resources occurred--from the point of view of ecological requirements--through uncontrolled development of new techniques and technologies and subsequent management. An adequate program of antipollution measures generally did not accompany the rapid development of contaminating techniques.

The solution of problems of the environment's deteriorating quality, of wasteful exploitation of its resources as well as of the removal of effects of violation should be looked for, first of all, at the economic level. The main reason for environmental deformation was the disregard by its perpetrators of the economic consequences of environmental degradation. Unfortunately, one cannot write on this subject in the past tense only. Many natural resources were considered free properties (for example, water), with no need to pay for their use. The deteriorating quality and limitation of environmental properties transformed them into economic values in the full sense of the word, for which one has to pay. This requirement is not fulfilled for all environmental values and resources. If the manufacturer does not have to consider damages to the environment, he cannot be expected to protect it, as it costs a great deal.

Investment Activity in the Area of Environmental Protection

The Bill on Environmental Protection and Formation, passed by the PRL Parliament (Sejm) on 31 January 1980 and implemented in September 1980, protects the resources of the natural environment, stipulating that, while satisfying social and natural needs, "one can use same exclusively within the domain established in the national socioeconomic plans and in the territorial development plans as well regulations on environmental protection" (art 4). Article 7, part 2, proclaims that "an administrative decision that is contrary to the requirements of environmental protection is null and void." Thus, all participants of the investment proceedings are obligated to comply with the regulations on environmental protection. All "the newly built or modernized structures or complex of structures cannot be turned over for use if arrangements for the environmental protection required by regulations or provided within the framework of the given investment have not been carried out? (art 84). Noncompliance with environmental protection regulations is subject to several sanctions.

The reading of individual articles of the Bill on the Environmental Protection and Formation, with several subsequent executive regulations, arouses many ambivalent reflections. No doubt one should be glad for the appearance of such an important legal act, which, when compiled with, will be a strong instrument of environmental policy. On the other hand, the functioning of an environmental protection system in our country points out that even the most adequate legislation and regulations cannot constitute the suitable remedy. I doubt if structures waiting for a scheduled ceremonial initiation will not see the ribbon cut due to such incidental matters (in the opinion of many decisionmakers) as the lack of facilities for environmental protection.

An authoritative quantification of the amount of investment outlays for the creation of environmental-technical infrastructure facilities is a complicated problem. An even more complicated issue is the calculation of effects obtained from these outlays with complementary effects in this area, whether or not they are recognized as outlays for environmental protection.

The statistics concerning environmental protection are well developed in our country and subject to steady improvement, along with the recording of outlays and effects of building the environmental-science infrastructure facilities.

The Chief Census Bureau (GUS) reports four types of outlays for environmental protection, namely, investment outlays for 1) water management, 2) water pollution control, 3) air pollution control and 4) neutralization and management of industrial waste. This is an incomplete list, for it does not present the whole problem connected with this issue (for example, protection from noise, etc.) due to the lack of proper information.

Investment outlays for environmental protection in 1970 amounted to more than 6.2 billion zlotys,¹ or approximately 3 percent of combined investment outlays and 0.8 percent of the national revenue. They included outlays for water management (4,464 million zlotys), water pollution control (1,230 million) and air pollution control (540 million). In 1975 GUS added investment expenditures for installations to neutralize and manage solid waste. From data on outlays for the basic infrastructure of environmental-technical facilities (table 1), solid waste outlays constituted approximately 3 percent of combined investments of the national income and 1 percent of the distributed national income in the second half of the 1970's.

Outlays for environmental protection during the whole decade had approximately the same stable share, including 1970, taking into account outlays for the neutralization and management of solid waste.

Table 1. Investment Outlays in the Area of Environmental Protection in the Years 1975-1979 (current prices)

**Nakłady inwestycyjne w dziedzinie ochrony środowiska
w latach 1975-1979**
(w mld. zł)

1) Wykazanie	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
(2) Nakłady inwestycyjne ogółem (mln zł)	13 083	19 186	21 180	21 920	20 817
(3) z tego (w %):					
(4) na gospodarkę wodną	59.9	62.9	60.4	65.6	64.9
(5) na ochronę wód	25.1	18.9	19.9	17.9	18.0
(6) na ochronę powietrza atmosferycznego	8.9	10.3	12.4	8.9	7.1
(7) urządzenia do unieszkodliwiania i zagospodarowania odpadów stałych	6.1	7.9	9.4	7.9	8.9
(8) Udział nakładów na ochronę środowiska (%) w:					
(9) łącznych nakładach inwestycyjnych w gospodarce narodowej	3.7	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.1
(10) podzielnym dochodzie narodowym	1.9	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.9

- KEY: 1. Specification
2. Investment outlays in general (millions of zlotys)
3. Amount (percentage)
4. For water management

¹ In all cases--unless otherwise reported--values are for current prices.

5. For water pollution control
6. For air pollution control
7. For the neutralization and management of solid waste
8. Share of outlays for environmental protection (percentage) in
9. Combined outlays for investments in the national income
10. In the distributed national income

Water Management and Water Pollution Control

Poland is one of the poorest countries in Europe in water drainage. During the last 30 years, this ranged from 1.6 to 2.6 thousand cubic meters per year per capita. Of more than 14 billion cubic meters of water consumed in 1979 for the needs of the national economy, 70.6 percent went to industry, 11.5 percent to agriculture and forestry and 17.9 percent to municipal management. During the 1970's the consumption of water in the national economy increased over 40 percent. Approximately 85 percent of water consumption was obtained from surface intakes, 13 percent from subterranean sources and 2 percent from mine waters.

The growth of demand for water in the national economy influenced the sewage discharge increase. The total discharge into surface waters in 1979, including cooling waters and polluted mine waters, amounted to 11.7 billion cubic meters, of which approximately 80 percent were cooling waters. In 1979, 2.2 billion cubic meters of sewage have been discharged through municipal sewerage systems, a 57 percent increase compared with 1970. Of 803 municipalities, only 350 benefited from the 424 sewage treatment plants, some of which also served rural communities. From the total sewage requiring treatment (4,660 million cubic meters), over 2,450 million cubic meters consisted of industrial sewages; the remaining was the municipal sewage.

Without reduction of pollutants (untreated sewage), almost 2 billion cubic meters (43 percent) of sewage were discharged in 1970; of this, 32 percent was industrial sewage and 55 percent, municipal sewage. The equipment of sewage treatment plants ensuring proper reduction of pollutants is unsatisfactory. Sewage treatment plants are unable to neutralize all incoming sewage. Only approximately one-third of these plants have received sewage not exceeding the capacity of their equipment. For almost one-half of the municipal sewage treatment plants, the hydraulic load exceeded their treatment capacity by at least 50 percent.

The majority of treatment plants does not achieve satisfactory results in pollutant disposal. This happens primarily because, among the 453 sewage treatment plants from 350 municipalities, as many as 155 had only mechanical treatment equipment at their disposal. Thus, not only sewage from 435 municipalities with no treatment plants was discharged without treatment, but the so-called "treated" water constituted a serious threat to the quality of surface waters and to the biological life in these waters. In 1979 over 60 percent of the pollution neutralization from treatment processes occurred in less than 30 percent of water consumed; of that, 34 percent involved industrial sewage and 24 percent, municipal sewage.

Water management and water pollution control absorb over 80 percent of combined outlays that--according to GUS--are treated as environmental protection investments. From detailed data on outlays in this area from 1966 to 1979, outlays for sewage treatment, which during the 5-year period of 1966 to 1970 constituted 19 percent of combined outlays, increased its share to 27 percent in the next 5-year period and to almost 30 percent in 1975. During the years 1975-1979 this share was steadily declining and, in 1979, it amounted to only 19 percent. The decline of environmental protection investments in 1979 below the level of the previous 2 years is a characteristic phenomenon. This decline affected in particular outlays for the construction of sewage treatment plants. Retrogression in investment volume was considerably more than justified by the relation of annual values of investment outlays in the years 1966 to 1979, since this period saw a considerable increase in prices of investment-project-work.

The unfavorable investment circumstances during the last years affected in particular outlays for environmental-technical infrastructure facilities. Precisely these investments--always treated in a rather marginal way--are subject to particular restrictions as unproductive and are treated as if they can be postponed forever. A spectacular effect of this approach is a drastic limitation of investment outlays for water management, where reductions occurred in all outlays (table 2).

Table 2. Investment Outlays in the Area of Water Management and Water Protection
(current prices) millions zł.

(1)	(2)	(3) z tego na: (2) -						(9)
Lata	Ogółem	(4) ujęcia doprowadzenia wody	(5) oczyszczalnie ścieków	(6) zbiorniki retencyjne	regulację rzek, budowę kanałów i zabudowę potoków	stacje pomp w zawałach i na obniżeniach depresyjnych		obwałowanie przeciwpowodziowe
1973	9 417	5 177	3 048	748	889	78		218
1975	12 638	6 503	3 738	1 228	897		388	
1978	18 387	9 788	3 887	3 883	1 588		470	
1979	16 818	9 487	3 887	1 883	1 418		447	

- KEY:
1. Years
 2. In general
 3. Amount for:
 4. Water supply intakes
 5. Sewage treatment plants
 6. Storage reservoirs
 7. Flood control, channel construction and stream development
 8. Pump stations in mine falls and in depressions
 9. flood control levees

It is difficult to make a detailed analysis of the impact of the decline on investment construction, which results from many years of the investment process. However (table 3,) production output and service capacity increments of environmental-technical infrastructure facilities were subject to a general decline.

Great and overestimated hopes were set on the "Wisla" program. This program a priori was threatened by incompletions, not only because of the megalomaniacally unrealistic scale of the venture but mainly because of no proper potential of investment performance. Data for 1966 to 1979 confirm it. During the 5-year period 1966 to 1970, sewage treatment plants with a daily capacity of 4.1 million cubic meters were put into operation. During the next 5-year period plants with daily capacity of 3.9 million cubic meters were placed in operation, while during the last 4 years (1976-1979) only 1.6 million cubic meters in daily capacity has been added. Statistics in other areas of water management also demonstrate--though not to such a degree--a regress (table 3).

The setback of investment activity, with limited outlays and investment effects toward the end of 1966-1979, appeared also in water management and water pollution control investment in municipal management (table 4). The underdevelopment of environmental-technical infrastructure facilities, which create the installations of residential-technical infrastructure facilities, presented the principle obstacle in the development of housing.

Annual flood losses reach multibillion values (from 60 to 650 million zlotys in 1976, 1977, 1978 and 1971; up to 6.8 to 8.7 billions zlotys in 1979 and 1977). To some extent part of these losses is inevitable, because the building of storage reservoirs would be unprofitable, since their development and utilization costs would exceed potential flood losses. However, as cultivation of lands exposed to periodic overflows increases, losses accumulate and in the near future may reach tens of billions of zlotys.

Table 3. Investments Transmitted for Use in the Area of Water Management and Water Pollution Control

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4) Oczyszczalnie ścieków				(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
Lata	Ujęcia wo- dy *) (tys. m ³ /d)	Sieć do- prowa- dzająca (km)	(5) Liczba	(6) przepustowości według metody oczyszczania (tys. m ³ /d)			Zbiorniki retencyjne (mln m ³ po- jemności całkowitej)	Regulacja rzek, bu- dowa kana- łów i zaba- dowa pot- oków (km)	Obwałowa- nia przeci- powodzi- we (km)	Stacje pomp w zawa- łach i de- presjach
				(7) mecha- nicz- nego	(8) che- micz- nego	(9) biolo- gicz- nego				
1973	8 084	1 481	119	374	11	273	110,1	1 005	129	31
1975	704	1 782	148	499	95	324	29,9	98	113	23
1978	940	1 740	92	237	40	113	69,7	732	97	13
1979	8 068 a)	1 815	88	349	181	134	10,3	647	77	13

*) Dotyczy również ujęć dla potrzeb energetyki ciepłej; a) w tym 5,8 mln m³/d (po 1,8) w elektrowniach „Kozienice” i „Potaniec”

* Dotyczy również ujęć dla potrzeb energetyki ciepłej; a) w tym 5,8 mln m³/d (po 2,9 w elektrowniach „Kozienice” i „Polaniec”).

- KEY: 1. Years
2. Water intakes* (thousands cubic meters per day)
3. Supply network (km)
4. Sewage treatment plants
5. Number
6. Capacity according to treatment method (thousands cubic meters per day)

*Concerns also intakes for thermal power engineering; of this, 5.8 million cubic meters per day (2.9 each) in electric power plants, Kozienice and Polaniec.

7. Mechanical
8. Chemical
9. Biological
10. Storage reservoirs (millions cubic meters of total capacity)
11. Flood control, channel construction and stream development (km)
12. Flood-control levees (km)
13. Pump stations in mine falls and in depressions

Table 4. Outlays and Factual Results of Water Investments and Water Pollution Control in Municipal Management

(1) Wyszczególnienie		1966-1970	1971-1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
Nakłady inwestycyjne (mln zł, ceny 1976 r.) (2)	Ogółem (3)	15 978	37 941	10 813	11 033	13 820	17 179
	na wodociągi (4)	9 381	18 721	6 820	4 888	5 775	8 121
	na kanalizację (5)	5 045	13 428	3 993	1 428	3 184	4 488
	na oczyszczalnie ścieków (6)	1 680	5 382	1 787	1 721	1 881	1 971
Efekty rzeczowe (7)	ujęcia wody (tys. m ³ /d) (8)	871,7	1 033,7	380,8	388,7	138,3	630,6
	rozprowadzająca sieć wodociągowa (km) (9)	1 970,9	2 214,9	553,7	580,9	442,3	585,9
	przepustowość oczyszczalni ścieków (tys. m ³ /d) (10)	353,9	427,5	300,6	184,1	84,6	177,9
	sieć kanalizacyjna (kolektory w km) (11)	889,7	1 882,9	383,8	394,5	432,4	638,5

- KEY:
1. Specification
 2. Investment outlays (millions zlotys, prices of 1976)
 3. In general, amount for
 4. Water supply systems
 5. Sewage systems
 5. Sewage treatment plants
 7. Factual results
 8. Water intakes (thousand cubic meters per day)
 9. Distributing water-pipe network (km)
 10. capacity of sewage treatment plants (thousand cubic meters per day)
 11. Sewage system network (interceptors in km)

Man-made water areas (recreation, sport, fishing industry, etc) fulfill an important role in reducing flood losses as well as several other roles, resulting from associative water management. At the end of 1979, there were 84 artificial water areas in Poland (with a capacity of at least 1 million cubic meters), bringing total water capacity to 2,718 million cubic meters. During the period from 1971 to 1979 only 10 artificial water areas have been built, with a total capacity of approximately 0.4 billion cubic meters; i.e., 2.5 times less than during the 5-year period of 1966 to 1970. This confirms the regress observed in other groups of environmental technical infrastructure installations.

The restraining of consumption and the decline in waste discharge can be stimulated by measures of economic action, evidenced by other countries. The water law of 1974 created possibilities in this area by introducing 1976 charges for water consumption for industrial purposes. From these payments the water

management fund was created. However, the lack of materials' processing in the building industry prevented the major part of this fund from being properly utilized.

Investment outlays in water management and water pollution control suffered a disturbing decline in recent years; for example, from 18.2 billion zlotys in 1978 to 16.8 billion zlotys in 1979 (at current prices). There is a justified anxiety that in a general economic recession, investments for environmental protection in particular will be subject to the most severe restrictions. Funds from the water management fund are not utilized from year to year. In 1979 less than 57 percent of available funds were utilized.

Air Pollution and Protection

In Poland industrial plants are the largest contributors to atmospheric air pollution (approximately two-thirds). The Fundamentals of Environmental Protection Program in Poland until 1990 set an "uncompromising" requirement for the installation of protective devices. However, the lack of executive powers, inadequate fuel quality, necessity of power turn-offs--to which, unfortunately, protection installations are subject in the first order--cause unsatisfactory results in air pollution reduction. Factories and heating plants particularly harmful to the air quality--and they totalled 930 in 1979--emitted in the 1970's an average of 2.2 to 2.4 million tons of dust pollutants per year. In individual years this quantity was not subject to large variations. On the other hand, the quantity of emitted gaseous pollutants was growing. While it amounted to 2.5 million tons in 1973, in 1975 it exceeded 3 million tons, and in 1979 it amounted to nearly 5 million tons. The amount of pollutants caught in reducing installations, which in 1978 amounted to 21.8 million tons of dust and 0.7 million tons of gaseous pollutants, in 1979 amounted to 25.7 and 0.7 million tons, respectively. During 1979 the degree of dust pollutant neutralization amounted to 91.5 percent and gaseous pollutant to 12.2 percent.

Air pollutants cause enormous losses; of these the most measurable (reduction of agricultural productivity, and accelerated corrosion of standing timber, depreciation of fixed assets, etc.) many times exceeded outlays for air protection. Difficult-to-calculate damages, such as the deterioration of historic monuments or threat to human health and life, must be added. Air pollution is the main cause of morbidity from tumorous diseases and of many other afflictions, as evidenced in studies in highly developed nations.

Limited investment for the environmental-technical infrastructure facilities affected air pollution protection particularly. While in 1977 these investments amounted to 2,834 million zlotys, in 1978 they totaled only 1,941 million zlotys and in 1979, merely 1,402 million zlotys. Considering inflationary tendencies in the building trades, the picture of this dangerous outlays decline becomes clearer. Solely during the period 1977-1979 outlays declines more than double. The case of the Skawina smelting works indicates in a drastic way the harmfulness of air pollution.

Industrial plants are the main--although not the single--perpetrator of atmospheric air pollution. Of 10 departments financing investments in atmospheric

air protection, the bulk of outlays comes from enterprises subordinated to ministries of metallurgy, power engineering and atomic energy, which during the last years participated by one-half and up to more than three-quarters in complete investment outlays (table 5).

Table 5. Investment Outlays in the Area of Air Pollution According to Departments

(current prices)

(1) Resorts	1975		1977		1979	
	mln zł	%	mln zł	%	mln zł	%
(2) Ogółem	1 327,0	100,0	2 837,9	100,0	1 402,5	100,0
(3) z tego: Energetyki i Energii Atomowej						
4) Górnictwa	280,0	21,1	358,4	13,0	357,9	25,5
Hutnictwa	648,8	42,7	1 842,1	64,9	90,3	7,1
(5) Przemysłu Maszyn Cieplnych					360,9	25,8
(6) Rolniczych			49,6	1,7	81,2	5,8
(7) Przemysłu Maszynowego	4,0	0,3	20,0	0,7	9,9	0,7
(8) Przemysłu Chemicznego	206,3	23,1	356,6	10,1	290,0	21,4
(9) Przemysłu Lekkiego	6,5	0,5	7,7	0,3	14,2	1,0
(10) Przemysłu Spożywczego						
Skupu	3,0	0,2	20,1	0,7	6,1	0,4
(11) Budownictwa i PMB	151,4	11,4	121,0	4,3	41,1	2,9
(12) Leśnictwa i Przemysłu Drzewnego	9,0	0,7	34,2	1,2	162,1	11,6

- KEY: 1. Departments:
 2. In general
 3. Amount for: power engineering and atomic energy
 4. Mining
 5. Metallurgy
 6. Heavy and agricultural machines industry
 7. Machine industry
 8. Chemical industry
 9. Light industry
 10. Alimentary industry and purchasing center
 11. Building and building materials industry
 12. Forestry and timber industry

Solid Waste Disposal

Toward the end of 1979, there were over 846 million tons of solid industrial waste at storage yards, at dumps and in sludge ponds; during the same year close to 24 million tons was added. In 1979, 165 million tons of waste were dumped, of which 94 million tons were economically utilized. The area of storage yards, waste dumps and sludge ponds, where solid waste is accumulated, covered 8,429 hectares, of which during the same year only 214 hectares were reclaimed. Most accumulated waste originated from operations of the following ministries: metallurgy (38.1 percent), mining (29.1 percent) and building trades with the building materials industry (13.3 percent).

Municipal waste is particularly cumbersome, despite its smaller volume. At the end of 1979, 34.8 million cubic meters of this waste accumulated on 1,225 public and permanent dumping grounds. These grounds covered 2,267 hectares. Less than 1 percent of the total waste had been utilized for composting. Close to 40 percent of municipal dumping grounds are in poor sanitary condition and--according to the evaluation by the sanitary inspectorate--constitute an environmental hygienic threat.

Investment outlays for the neutralization and management of industrial waste during the years 1975-1979 amounted to 898; 1,346; 1,713; and 1,596 million zlotys, respectively (at current prices). The majority of these outlays was financed by the following departments: metallurgical, power engineering and atomic energy, chemical industry, mining, forestry and timber industry. They participated almost entirely in investment outlays in this area. The high degree of investment of the department of forestry and timber industry is particularly praiseworthy, because the wastes of this branch of industry are the least harmful to the environment and are useful, due to soil biomineralization.

* * *

The socialistic socioeconomic system--the basic aim of which is to satisfy social needs by optimal utilization of resources, including environmental--is in particular bound to environmental protection by realizing rational principles of environmental policy. With this aim we have developed adequate rules and established special institutions but we are short of the means to realize the protection measures. Outlays for the infrastructure of environmental science lag not only behind the needs, but even behind the possibilities of our national economy, particularly limited in the last period.

To its disadvantage, Poland differs from the level of investment for environmental protection in other countries, with its contribution of slightly more than 1 percent of the national income, considering other outlays not mentioned by GUS. In several highly developed countries analogous outlays constitute over 2 percent of national gross receipts, not even taking into consideration the much higher base, this represents a share approximately three times higher. In this context the treatment of outlays in this area--as expressed in a drastic limitation of outlays for the environmental-technical infrastructure during recent years (table 6)--arouses concern.

Table 6. Investment Outlays in the Area of Neutralization and Management of Industrial Waste--According to Departments (current prices)

(see next page)

(1)	Resorty	(2) Ogółem	
		1978	1979
	Ogółem (3)	1 713.4	1 888.1
	z tego Ministerstwa: (4)		
	Energetyki i Energii Atomowej (5)	888.0	835.5
(6)	Górnictwa (5)	112.5	188.3
	Hutnictwa (5)	712.3	683.8
(8)	Przemysłu Maszynowego (7)	18.6	8.4
	Przemysłu Chemicznego (8)	188.8	232.3
(10)	Przemysłu Lekkiego (9)	0.3	0.3
	Przemysłu Spożywczego i Skupu (10)	0.8	—
	Przemysłu Maszyn Ciężkich i Rolniczych (11)	8.6	1.8
	Budownictwa i Przemysłu Materiałów Budowlanych (12)	2.3	2.7
	Leśnictwa i Przemysłu Drzewnego (13)	121.3	238.8
	Komunikacji (14)	1.8	1.3

- KEY:
1. Departments
 2. In General
 3. Ministries:
 4. Power engineering and atomic energy
 5. Mining
 6. Metallurgy
 7. Machines industry
 8. Chemical industry
 9. Light industry
 10. Alimentary industry and purchasing centers
 11. Heavy and agricultural machines industry
 12. Building and building materials industry
 13. Forestry and timber industry
 14. Transportation

Every country, including Poland, can postpone the burden of considerable outlays for environmental protection, in order to accelerate economic growth, expressed by an increase of per capita goods production. The alternative of such a postponement may be a deterioration of environmental quality, with future restoration --if at all possible--costing considerably more. Prevention of environmental pollution and its rehabilitation--in order to reinstate the biological equilibrium--are technically possible, socially necessary, ecologically indispensable and economically profitable, although we cannot yet measure, or even appreciate, its profitability. A proper place must be given to the problems linked with the protection and formation of the environment. Life in a healthy environment, pleasing the eye and the ear, constitutes a condition *sine qua non* of a properly understood quality of life, which often--under conditions of every-day shortcomings--we do not perceive.

Sources:

1. Environmental situation, threat and protection 1973. GUS, Warsaw 1974.
2. Environmental protection 1975. GUS, Warsaw 1976.
3. Environmental protection and water management 1978. GUS, Warsaw 1979.
4. Environmental protection and water management 1979. GUS, Warsaw 1980.

9841

CSO: 5000/3001

BRIEFS

REFORESTATION PROJECTS--With the appearance of the company, Reforestacion Tecnica, S. A., the myth that projects from 2,000 to 3,000 hectares cannot be carried out in a year has been shattered. Reforestacion Tecnica, S.A. finished and sold in its entirety the "Las Brumas" project, located in Santa Cecilia, jurisdiction of La Cruz, Province of Guanacaste. This reforestation project uses laurel, sown in an expanse of 1,000 hectares. To make the plan feasible, seeds were collected in the area of San Carlos, Sarapiquí and Santa Cecilia de la Cruz. The year before, Reforestacion Tecnica developed a new system in "Las Brumas" with the direct sowing of seedlings, thus eliminating the propagating bed. The innovative technique is still in an experimental stage, but it is moving forward because it means a saving of economic resources and of time. With this process, the "suedo cutting" succeeds in a shorter period compared with the usual method. The "Las Brumas" project is the biggest and the first of its class in the county. It has been visited by experts from the United Nations, from the Food and Agricultural Administration, from the University of Costa Rica and from the Technological Institute, who have given out very favorable opinions. Benjamin Olivares, from FAO, was in Costa Rica for several months observing the financing programs for the forestry sector. He expected to find an elementary operation, but was amazed at the advances achieved. [Text] [San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 20 Sep 81 pp 14-15] 9678

CSO: 5000/2009

CONSERVATION EFFORTS, PRESERVES IN MATANZAS NOTED

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 15 Sep 81 p 2

[Article by Raisa Pages]

Cienaga de Zapata--The first thing a visitor sees when he arrives in Cienaga de Zapata is enormous barricades urging protection for the flora and fauna in the municipality, so rich in natural, economic and historic resources.

But the campaign is not limited to signs, as we learned at the Cienaga de Zapata Integral Forestry Enterprise, where this year, a budget of over 50,000 pesos has been devoted to improving the habitat of important species of flora and fauna.

In Cienaga de Zapata, a municipality with an area of 3,300 kilometers south of Matanzas, 12 percent of the country's forestry resources are found. Its wooded areas occupy an area of 426,767 hectares and contain countless top-quality species such as cedar, mahogany, oak, ocuje, jocuma, jucaro, soplilo and others.

In addition to being of great economic value, these forests are a habitat for wild fauna where many species of great worth are found: deer, crocodiles, flamencos, ducks, doves and many other animals which are also in danger of extinction. Some of these are found only in this region.

Forestry Conservation

Previous to 1959, the territory was looted by the bourgeois landowners, only anxious to increase their flow of money, a well-known fact. During the early years of the revolution, measures were taken for the conservation and development of these natural resources, whose legal expression is the Law for the Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources.

In an interview with GRANMA, Integral Forestry officials said that based on this legal instrument, it is still necessary to adopt a broader line more in keeping with the objective situation with respect to the conservation of forestry resources and the fauna.

Julio Ortega, director of the enterprise in question, said that "it is not a matter of totally banning the cutting and working of forestry resources, so indispensable to the development of the economy. We have to continue to produce lumber, charcoal, and so on, but while strictly complying with technical regulations established

for the forestry area by the Ministry of Agriculture. We must cut trees, but only those in the proper condition and those needed to meet overriding needs."

Ortega continued: "Since we, the government representatives, who are responsible for complying with the orientations emanating from the party and government covering the conservation of the flora and fauna in the municipality, we are carrying out a plan of work in accordance with that protection."

Last year, forestry ordinance was begun in the enterprise, the most technical and scientific task with regard to the protection and optimum use of our resources. This work will soon be concluded.

"We saw the indiscriminate cutting that was done until only a short time ago. Now cutting is done only in areas authorized by the Ministry. It is not permitted to take out precious woods beyond what has been strictly planned and we have suspended permits to private parties for cutting wood for individual purposes."

In order to improve the most neglected wooded areas, the enterprise has specific enrichment tests that are yielding positive results. At the same time, attending is given to how growth proceeds in natural woods, with briar and harmful brush being eliminated.

Cienaga de Zapata Woods Belonging to the Integral Forestry Enterprise

Historic and recreational woods	4,600 hectares
Woods protecting fauna	63,000 hectares
Woods for special protection purposes	3,850 hectares
Forests for production	187,583 hectares
Protection for production forests	78,746 hectares
Protective woods	3,087 hectares
Production forests growing	85,000 hectares
Deforested areas	640 hectares

Fire Plan

Signs seen everywhere in Cienaga warn of the great fire danger in the area. Sometimes a mere cigarette butt thrown into the mountains causes fire. That is why an information campaign is being waged to check the possible causes of these fires that destroy the plant layer, erode the soil and have a negative effect on the fauna of the place affected.

The plan includes the construction of fire trails and fire stations have been set up. The forestry workers themselves have set up crews to help with the strict supervision. In addition, fishermen and hunters have been warned not to start bonfires. They are a major source of fires and have been banned.

Diagnostic Development

As we previously pointed out, Cienaga de Zapata is one of the richest areas with respect to valuable species of Cuban fauna, basically birds, 80 percent of all of those in the country are in the woods here.

One important element in the supervision of all these conservation measures is the forestry guard. There are 18 in Cienaga, but due to the vastness of the territory, it is necessary to increase the figure to 25 or more. The job requires an eighth-grade education and knowledge of the flora and fauna, Julio explained. He added: "Those we already have on the staff are taking courses on these topics in order to make their work more efficient."

There are two natural refuges in Cienaga, west of Playa Larga. One is the Salinas zone, with 38,000 hectares. The other is in Santo Tomas, with 14,000. Human activity is banned in these places and they are gathering points for migratory birds.

"We already have 16 head of deer (to increase to 100), 92 pairs of English ducks, pheasants and wild boars to breed with the wild pigs."



Key:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. Municipality | 4. Bay of Pigs |
| 2. Province | 5. Caribbean Sea |
| 3. Refuge | |

11,464

CSO: 5000/2013

BRIEFS

LAKE DECONTAMINATION FINANCED--FYDEP [National Agency for the Economic Promotion and Development of El Peten] will invest a total of 3 million quetzals in the decontamination of Lake Peten Itza, according to the statement made yesterday to PRENSA LIBRE by the head of that agency, Col Jorge Mario Reyes Porras. He pointed out that one of the first steps in this direction is the installation of drainage ditches in Santa Elena, San Benito and Ciudad Flores. This will prevent black water from continuing to contaminate the lake. He pointed out that subsequently the second phase of drainage installation will continue in the lakes around the villages of San Jose, San Andres and a few others located around Peten Itza. As soon as the FYDEP budget is approved, he emphasized, the work will begin next January. Furthermore, the sources of water supply will be improved, filling the distribution network with drinking water and other measures will be taken to improve the health of the people of Peten Itza. Colonel Reyes stated that the contamination of the lake became more acute as a consequence of the flood. However, the company has not remained idle, since, on instructions from President Lucas Garcia, ongoing works have been carried out for some time to attenuate the consequences of the phenomenon. [Text] [Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 27 Aug 81 p 2] 8956

CSO: 5000/2171

ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS PERSISTING, MINISTER CHARGES

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 19 Oct 81 p 10

[Article by Paget Defreitas]

[Text]

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Sunday. (CANA) - The Arawaks called the island Jaymaca - land of wood and water. The wood is not quite as plentiful anymore for over the centuries the forests have been denuded for timber and fuel and to create space for development.

The water is still abundant. The island is crisscrossed by rivers and streams that once provided bountiful fare for the Arawaks and successive generations of Jamaicans.

But now there are fears that the water might not be there any more.

For many of the rivers and streams are polluted, smelly, almost stagnant quagmires, unable any longer to support aquatic life. Also there are serious threats to ground water resources - the result of years of indiscriminate use and improper control.

But the damage of water resources are not the only failures in environmental management, which Junior Health Minister, Karl Samuda, has told Parliament is costing the country an estimated J\$200 million a year.

It was an unhappy picture painted by Mr. Samuda of the threat to the Jamaican environment and the possibility of the negative impact the situation could have on life here.

There was urgent need for the strengthening of existing environmental control machinery

and the development of a multi-ministry, multi-sector programme to deal with the problems, the Junior Minister said.

Said Mr. Samuda: "We in Jamaica suffer from both the environmental health problems of the developing countries as well as the problems of the industrialised countries."

In analysing the basic factors causing or contributing to a number of diseases in the country, environmental factors rank high.

"I am referring to infective and parasitic diseases, diseases of the respiratory system, cancer and other diseases and disorders."

He continued: "It is estimated by the Environmental Control Division (of the Health Ministry) that because Jamaica has not yet developed effective machinery for environmental control, the annual economic cost to the country is over J\$200 million."

"This arises from extra costs for hospitalisation and treatment of environmentally-induced illnesses, loss of production due to uncontrolled working environment, the increased cost of construction and land development destruction or damage to crops, livestock, soil, water, air and natural resources."

Statistics provided by Mr. Samuda showed that 200 000 Jamaicans in rural parishes are

not supplied through any central water system and they use rivers and springs which are easily contaminated.

A further 300 000 people who get their supplies through central systems are using completely untreated water. And of the remainder who are supplied through central systems 36 per cent of the water they use is not entirely treated.

Added Mr. Samuda: "Tests carried out by water quality personnel show that about 30 per cent of approximately all rural water supplies contain ... bacteria from sewage and faecal waste."

"There has been a case of a dairy being supplied with water being supplied from a contaminated source, with the result that contaminated milk was reaching the consumer."

"The same water source was used to supply a north coast hotel. There has even been a case of contamination found in the water used for supplying ships docking in one part of the island."

Mr. Samuda told Parliament: "Many of Jamaica's most important rivers have stretches of tributaries that are badly polluted. The Black River in St. Elizabeth has been contaminated by oil, is discoloured, has suffered a depression of oxygen levels and an increase in suspended solids ... the Elim and Grass rivers in the same parish has been foul-smelling,

discoloured and unable to support aquatic life.

The shrimp industry in middlequarters was almost destroyed by pollution and its use as a source of water supply has been severely curtailed.

"In St. Catherine (east central) tributaries of the Rio Cobre have reached a stage where they are virtually like open sewers with organic waste. Sections of the Rio Cobre itself are bereft of oxygen. The Ferry River has developed a high sodium content and conductivity making fish life almost a thing of the past."

The damage to surface water sources, however, is not the entire problem.

Recently a ban was lifted on building in one section of the Liguanea Basin in Kingston and St. Andrew because of damage done to underground water by nitrates from sewerage systems."

And the Linstead Basin in St. Catherine, a great water source with tremendous capability for supplying that parish and Kingston, has been threatened by the huge red mud an effluent left after bauxite has been processed into alumina lakes.

These two examples are well known but there are similar problems elsewhere.

The sea too has not escaped man's encroachment and the Kingston harbour, which once had a reputation for being among the loveliest in the world, is now "dead".

According to Mr. Samuda, in 1979 it was estimated that 12 million gallons of partially treated or untreated sewerage

was being discharged daily into the harbour from adequate or malfunctioning sewerage plants. For industrial waste water, the amount daily was three million gallons.

In the rural areas the respective figures were 3.5 and three million gallons.

There is, compared to the industrialised countries, no serious air pollution problem here. But there is growing cause for concern.

Apart from the increasing numbers of vehicles discharging carbon monoxide into the atmosphere, dust problems are created in certain areas by a cement plant situated outside Kingston. Quarrying work also contributes to the dust problems.

There are also other problems associated with the bauxite alumina industry.

Earlier this year, angry residents complained about damages property, their health and chemicals escaping during the processing of alumina to bauxite and demonstrated at plants.

At the time of the demonstrations, two bauxite companies announced they were upgrading equipment to minimise the fall-out and any possible dangers to nearby communities.

Inside the plants themselves, the bauxite companies have stringent safety measures for their employees, but according to Mr. Samuda the same cannot be said for other companies.

Said Mr. Samuda: "Recently

one worker had to be hospitalised as a result of arsenic poisoning at his workplace. Nine others were tested for arsenic in their blood and five of these had arsenic above the allowable limit.

"In factories where blood tests were carried out in 1979, it revealed that over 50 per cent of the employees had lead in their blood stream above the allowable limit."

In February a newspaper story stated that people who lived around a factory in St. Catherine that supplies battery terminals were suffering from lead poisoning.

Children in the area were reported to be deformed, apparently victims through affected parents. Other children were said to have rashes and sores from coming in contact with the substance.

Noise is also a developing problem. And Mr. Samuda told Parliament that 12 workers at a factory had their hearing impaired.

To come to grips with the environmental problems Mr. Samuda suggested that there should be greater co-ordination between such agencies as the National Resource and Conservation Department (NRCD), which comes under the Ministry of Mines and Natural Resources, and the Ministry of Health's Environmental Control Division.

Mr. Samuda also suggested that the budgets and personnel of environmental agencies should be increased.

REFORESTATION PROJECT IN ZELAYA

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 18 Sep 81 p 9

The revolution has an immense task to perform in northern Zelaya: Restore and return to productivity the 300,000 hectares of pine which were totalled leveled by the transnationals.

Of those 300,000 hectares, 200,000 can be improved by means of natural reforestation; but the remaining 100,000 can be woods again only with the aid of man: They will have to be reforested artificially. And this task has already begun, with the help of the Mexican government: It is the Reforestation Project of the Northeast.

To meet this great effort, financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (BID) for \$8,500,000, with counterpart funds from the revolutionary government of \$1,500,000 are counted on during the next four years.

For this first year of work a rather modest plan has been developed: Reforest artificially 500 hectares. In this stage, 300 heads of family are working for its realization, and to achieve it, the assistance of the popular organizations by means of rotating Sundays is necessary.

These days of voluntary work have already begun and the Sandinist armed forces and the miners have been outstanding in their participation.

The Reforestation Project of the Northeast consists of two different aspects. On the one hand, reforestation strictly speaking, financed by BID, in which technical assistance from Mexico is being relied upon. On the other hand, the industrial treatment of the wood from the pine tree, with the installation of a pulp industry for the manufacture of paper. This second aspect is beyond the project stage and it is hoped that the plant will be functioning during the year 1985.

When this plant is working, it will generate a great number of jobs, raise the standard of living of the area, and furnish sizeable inflows of foreign exchange by means of the international commercialization of its different products.

This plant is of mixed capita. In it, the governments of Nicaragua and Mexico will invest \$85,000,000. The details of this investment are completely approved by both governments.

EAST AFRICAN MARINE RESOURCES THREATENED BY SEA POLLUTION

Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 23 Oct 81 p 1

[Article by Simeon Ileta]

[Text]

AN environmental expert has expressed concern that marine resources within the East African region were facing a serious threat due to sea pollution.

Tunisian born Moncef Riahi of the Nairobi-based United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Office for Africa has said in Dar es Salaam that the East African ecosystems faced several threats which could harm the region's marine resources.

Ndugu Riahi, who is leading a fact-finding mission of seven scientists currently in the country under UNEP sponsorship to investigate resources and environmental problems of eight East African and Indian Ocean countries, said some damage had already been done to coral reefs whose productive and heavily fished zone is vulnerable to pollution and silting.

He said fishing with dynamite and poison has further destroyed some areas thereby threatening the resources.

The expert, whose team has been meeting officials in ministries and institutions

dealing with environment since they arrived in the country on Monday, said deforestation of mangrove areas to provide firewood and other products had already affected fisheries and altered the environment in other Indian Ocean areas and threatened to become a problem in East Africa.

The team comprising a conservation expert, an industrial engineer, a land use planner, a marine pollution expert, an oil pollution control expert and a sanitary engineer, is expected to complete its work within the next two months.

The project will cover a vast coastal and marine area of Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Comoros.

Ndugu Riahi told the *Daily News* that among other things, the team would investigate on oil pollution control, the conservation of coastal and marine resources and ecosystems, pollution levels and hazards to human health, marine and coastal area development and pollution from industrial sources.

He said the reports of the team would serve as principal working papers of a workshop of experts from the East African region which is expected to be held early next year at a venue not yet known.

The workshop's conclusion and the mission's reports would be transformed into the first draft of an East African action plan, the final version of which would most likely be agreed upon at an intergovernmental conference in 1983, he said.

Ndugu Riahi further said the reports of the mission would be submitted to the governments concerned to enable them have a good picture of the resources and environmental problems of their coastal areas, and a clear idea of what to do about them.

While in Tanzania, the experts have been separately meeting and interviewing officials and institutions dealing with environment, and are expected to hold a general meeting tomorrow.

The team which has already been to Kenya and Mozambique leaves Tanzania tomorrow for Comoro, Mauritius and Madagascar.

BRIEFS

KGALAGADI DROUGHT RELIEF--The Ministry of Agriculture will spend about P83 000 to water communal grazing areas at Tshanetshane, Kgawa, Khuis, Kilonkwaneng and Middlepits, as a drought relief measure. This was disclosed by Tsabong District Agricultural Officer (DAO), Mr N. M. Mokhalee in an interview with BOPA recently. The money was made available after a Presidential Directive was passed declaring these areas drought stricken. The villages are all in the Southern Kgalagadi. Mr. Mokhalee told BOPA that residents of these villages will help dig trenches since the project is under the self-help scheme. He said those who will be engaged in digging trenches will be paid about P1.00 a day. The DAO said materials were expected to arrive in a week's time. He said an Assistant Water Engineer will be stationed in Tsabong to supervise the implementation of the project. According to Mr Mokhalee work will start at Tshanetshane, Kgawa and Kilonkwaneng where boreholes to pipe water from, had been drilled. At Middlepits and Khuis, work will start later because negotiations about whether to use a government borehole, were still to held. Mr Mokhalee further disclosed that Middlepits residents were engaged in two self-help projects, a storage for Karakul pelts, wool and grapple plants, and another project, clearing bushes to make fire breaks. The DAO said meetings were to be held at Tsabong and neighbouring villages to urge farmers to organise themselves and build storages like the one being built at Middlepits. [Text] [Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 28 Oct 81 p 3]

CSO: 5000/5616

RIVER POLLUTION THREATENS HEALTH OF POPULATION

Libreville L'UNION in French 23 Sep 81 p 2

[Article by M'Far Mbala-Mombo]

[Text] As all other provinces, the province of Ogooue-Lolo possesses a number of entities in charge of improving the health of the population. Indeed, it is equipped with general medicine, surgery, pathology, endemic diseases and sanitation services. If other services are judged satisfactory, the same cannot be said of the sanitation ones.

Indeed, the population of Koula-Moutou has never seen the public health services at work, even though quite a number of cases under its authority are flagrant ones. The Bouenguiddi River, which flows behind the provincial hospital, is polluted by dirty dressings and the patients' excreta. The Bouenguiddi Hotel throws into the river great piles of empty cans.

With pollution acquiring alarming proportions, the concern of the people who use this river for swimming or household consumption can easily be understood. Moreover, a recent investigation of the endemic diseases service in cooperation with the departing head physician has shown the presence of bilharzia, the parasitic worms that cause bilharziasis.

In addition to this, there is the problem of health standards in shops. Their owners sell drinks to consumers in demijohn tops. These notorious "plastic glasses" are washed and rinsed all day long in the same dishwater, which the owner's assistant never thinks of changing. These problems are crying out for the municipality's attention so that the health of the people can be protected and improved.

CSO: 5000/5615

BRIEFS

WATER ACT LAW--Water from Lake Victoria could be pumped to transform some of Kenya's dry areas, but funds were a limiting factor, the Minister for Water development, Mr Moses Madavadi, said yesterday. Mr Mudavadi also revealed that a law to deal with factories polluting water by discharging waste into rivers and other water courses was under way. The law was part of a Water Act which will soon be tabled in Parliament, the Minister said. He made the points during discussions with the Swedish Ambassador to Kenya, Mrs Cecilia Nettelbrandt, who paid a courtesy call in the Minister's office at Maji House in Nairobi. Touching on Kenya's water demands generally, the Minister told his visitor the Government wanted more attention to be paid to rural areas where the bulk of the people lived. Without clean water, he said, the rural community was exposed to diseases. The Ambassador informed the Minister that she would like to tour some of the Swedish-funded projects in the country. She noted that her country had been more involved in water development in Kenya more than in any other fields, having spent Shs. 240 million since 1970. She said she wanted to tour some of the projects so as to make a fresh report to her Government. Mr Mudavadi, who was with his Permanent Secretary, Mr J. H. O. Omino, and three other senior officials of the Ministry, informed Mrs Nettelbrandt that some of the Swedish-funded projects had not yet been completed, not because of lack of funds but due to other technical issues. [Text] [Nairobi THE STANDARD in English 23 Oct 81 p 5]

RHINO POACHING--Poaching reduced Kenya's rhino population from 8,800 in 1969 to a mere 81 last year, Vice President and Minister for Finance Mwai Kibaki said on Thursday night. Mr Kibaki said this when he toured the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources stand at the Nairobi International Show. The Vice-President was the guest of honour at the Show yesterday. Attendance continued to swell as the show entered its fifth day. Mr Kibaki was told at the stand that in 1969 Amboseli had 50 rhinos but only 6 remained last year. Samburu had 1,500 but now had only 18. The rhinos in Tsavo had been reduced from 7,000 to 48, while in Meru National Park the number had fallen to 9 last year from 250 in 1969. [Excerpt] [Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 26 Sep 81 p 5]

CSO: 5000/5610

BRIEFS

UN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DELEGATION--A delegation from the UN environmental protection program (UNEP) has been in Mozambique since 12 October to prepare a report on the problems related to the region's environmental resources. The document will be presented to the group of Eastern Africa experts who will meet at the beginning of next year. Following this preparatory meeting, another report will be made to be presented to the intergovernmental conference that will be held in Nairobi in 1983. This team is formed by 7 scientists who will study, among other subjects, the control of marine pollution, the conservations of coastal and marine ecosystems and the danger levels of man-made pollution. [Text] [Maputo TEMPO in Portuguese 25 Oct 81 p 3]

CSO: 5000/5617

BRIEFS

FEARS OF DROUGHT DISPELLED—The recent cold, rainy weather over much of Zimbabwe has disturbed the nation's farmers: they are worried what to expect next. Despite assurances last week from the Department of Meteorological Services that a cold, wet October is no barometer for the rest of the growing season, many farmers fear that the early rains could spell drought later. A Commercial Farmers' Union spokesman reported some cases of hail and rain damage to ripening winter wheat as well as reaping difficulties. "The combine harvesters just can't get into some of the lands." But losses were impossible to estimate until affected crops had been harvested, although these were not expected to be drastic. The cold, wet spells had been generally followed by warm sunny periods which had quickly dried out the crop. The rain came too early to affect this season's maize crops, the spokesman added. Met. men said that the farmers' fear that a wet October signalled a drought were unfounded. "Our records show no trend to support this belief...rain in October has absolutely no significance." October normally brought dry, cloudless weather from Tanzania, but this year the prevailing air flow had been from west to east, which, accompanied by bands of disturbed air in the upper levels, had brought far more cloud than usual. The month had produced five spells of guti, particularly over the southern half of the country. Twelve days had been decidedly cooler than normal and the average mean temperature for the month was down from 29°C to 27°C. A spokesman said that this year's cloud seeding operations were due to start next Monday and would continue until January 23. Care would naturally be taken to avoid areas under wheat. [Text] [Salisbury THE SUNDAY MAIL in English 1 Nov 81 p 4]

'OPERATION RAINDROP'--A nationwide cloud-seeding operation, run by the Meteorological Department, begins next Monday, a spokesman for the operation announced yesterday. Volunteer members of the Air Force of Zimbabwe will take part in the operation that will last until early April. "The operation can save crops during drought until the rain falls again," said the spokesman. "Suitable large cumulus clouds are seeded by firing special chemical cartridges into them; these cartridges produce a mist of tiny silver iodide crystals," he added. The spokesman said that a successful seeding operation produces about 100 000 tonnes of extra rain--about 5mm--over 20 sq km. The operation is expected to cost approximately \$200 000, but the spokesman explained that this sum represents about one-fifth of the cost that an American firm of cloud-seeders would spend on the project. Cloud-seeding operations will not be carried out in areas where the harvesting of winter crops has been delayed, because excessive rain may be detrimental to the crops.--ZIS [Text] [Salisbury THE HERALD in English 5 Nov 81 p 6]

KAZAKH ENVIRONMENT MONITORING CENTER'S WORK REVIEWED

Alma Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 25 Sep 81 p 4

[Article by E. Poznyak, chief engineer of an environment pollution study and control center: "Under the Control of the Atmosphere"]

[Text] In accordance with the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and the regulations of the USSR Constitution serious practical measures on environmental protection are being carried out in our country. In the USSR laws have been adopted on water, land, the interior of the earth, and forest resources. On 1 January 1981 the USSR Law "On the Protection of the Air" went into effect. The same law has been adopted by the Supreme Soviet of our republic. Now practically all of the natural resources necessary for satisfying man's vital needs have been taken under the protection of the state.

The capital investments assigned for the construction of environmental protection facilities will increase during the current five-year plan. As is mapped out by the documents of the 26th CPSU Congress and 15th Congress of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan, there has to be the introduction of waste-free technologies at enterprises and increased protection for water and air against harmful sewerage waters and discharges.

In order to effectively accomplish these tasks it was necessary to improve the system of control over the condition of the environment. For these purposes, at the end of last year a center for the study and control of environmental pollution was created in our republic at the Republic Administration of Hydrometeorology.

Its task is to conduct observations on air, soil, and water cleanliness on the territory of the republic and to supply the information it obtains to various organizations. In order to perform this work modern laboratories have been organized and so has a far-flung network of hydrochemical air observation posts and points. This network is constantly expanding. This year alone it will be reinforced by nine new points which will possess the latest instruments for selecting air probes. At the same time, a large amount of work will be performed by the specialized mobile "Atmosfera" laboratories. They are based on cross-country trucks and permit a determination of the character of the air and the number of harmful substances in it at any distance from the source of pollution. At the present time environmental control laboratories are operating in 19 cities of Kazakhstan.

One of the basic jobs without which the effective protection of clean air is impossible and which has already been performed by the subdivisions of the center is an inventorying of the sources of dust and gas discharges. Its results will help to make more precise plans for measures to protect the air of cities. The accumulated material is being generalized with the help of computers.

Another responsible task which is now being performed by our subdivisions is the development of normatives for the republic's enterprises for maximum permissible discharges into the air. The center is the head organization for the development of such normatives in the republic.

In addition to this, specialists from the center perform expert appraisals on all plans for new and reconstructed enterprises with regard to their correspondence to the requirements of preserving the cleanliness of waters, soil, and air. This makes it possible to avoid errors in planning.

But, of course, all of the center's work obtains practical importance only if its results are used right at the enterprises which have discharge sources. In this connection it should be noted that many combines, plants, and factories are actively participating in accomplishing the task of environmental protection. In particular, the Alma-Ata house construction combine, the "Ekibastuzugol" production association, the "Kustanayasbest," the Aktyubinsk Chrome Couplings Plant, and other enterprises, after the adoption of the law "On the Protection of the Air," developed concrete measures to sharply reduce air pollution. At the Alma-Ata house construction combine, for example, work has been begun on the reconstruction of the dust and gas cleaning system, and the aspiration of the clay filler shop will be improved. All of this will make it possible to sharply decrease discharges into the air.

These enterprises are orienting themselves not only toward a maximum utilization of the state capital investments which have been released for the construction of gas and dust treatment systems, but are also conducting a search for internal reserves. An improvement of environmental protection work is being actively helped here by labor collectives, rationalizers, and specialists by means of strengthening labor and production discipline, an extensive exchange of experience, and clear actions by the people's controllers.

However, such an approach to the solution of the problems of environmental protection are not yet characteristic of all enterprises. At the Karaganda Metallurgical combine, the Ust'-Kamenogorsk Lead and Zinc Combine and other enterprises allocated capital investments are constantly underutilized and commissioning dates for air protection facilities are not met. The enterprises of the republic's Ministry of Nonferrous Metallurgy, Ministry of Energy, and Ministry of Municipal Housing are exercising poor control over the fulfillment of assignments. Frequently the introduction of new production processes capable of sharply reducing the discharge of harmful substances into the air is delayed for many long years. Above all, this applies to the "KIVTSET" at the Ust'-Kamenogorsk Lead and Zinc Combine and a number of other scientific and technical achievements.

Yet, life itself is demanding that the maintenance of water and air cleanliness in cities become one of the paramount tasks of all enterprises.

At the present time the Alma-Ata center is continuing to perfect the system of pollution control. Construction has begun in the republic on ANKOS--the laboratory of an automated environmental observation and control system. The ANKOS system is outfitted with posts and automatic gas analyzers which make it possible to constantly control air pollution. The information which is obtained on the communications channels goes to the dispatcher computer center for further processing and generalization. All this will help to decrease harmful discharges at the city's industrial enterprises and to improve the condition of the air.

However, close practical interaction between the subdivisions of the center and industrial enterprises is the chief condition for effective environmental protection. The measures which are now being worked out together with them on protecting the air will make it possible to decrease the amount of discharges by 20 percent at the end of the five-year plan.

2959

CSO: 1830/46

MINISTER DEFENDS ENVIRONMENT LAW PROPOSAL

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 23 Oct 81 p 2

[Article by Jakob Groes and Rasmus Nielsen: "Minister: Environment Law Will Absolutely Not Be Tightened Up"]

[Text] Erik Holst denies that the new environmental law means more restrictions on industry and agriculture.

"The environment law will not in any sense be tightened up. There is only a simplification and an increase in the flexibility of court procedures."

With this statement to BERLINGSKE TIDENDE the Minister of Environment Erik Holst rejected the criticism raised by industry and agriculture against the revision of the environment protection law, which the minister is expected to place before the Folketing in a month.

"I am old enough to remember when the first environment law was proposed in 1972. Industry and agriculture were also highly dissatisfied at that time. Today they are happy with it, and for good reason. Last year Danish firms could export environmental equipment and know-how worth 1 billion kroner. They can thank our pioneering environment law for that."

Unusually Open

Erik Holst described the procedure surrounding the preparation of the proposal as unusually broad and open. But behind it there are a number of points which the Industrial Council described as unacceptable as recently as yesterday's BERLINGSKE TIDENDE.

"Just the same, I hope that the Industrial Council will learn that they can live with the law. There is no question of its causing jobs to be lost, and the Industrial Council surely would rather be with us than to stand outside and shout," said Erik Holst.

He would not deny that changes could take place in the preliminary bill, but he emphasized that it contains the intentions which he has had from the start with the new law.

"There is a time for talk, and a time for decision making. The question is whether we have come to the point where I must decide," said the minister.

"The Industrial Council and the Agricultural Council have said that the national organizations are justified in complaining. I do not believe that we will be swamped with complaints from reasonable and sensible organizations such as the Danish Society for the Preservation of Nature. I myself am a member of that society, together with the chairman of the Industrial Council and 155,000 other people.

"If it turns out that one of these organizations behaves foolishly, I must recommend that they be tossed out again. And let me emphasize that the movement will not go with them. To reject Barseback is too narrow a basis for complaint."

Neighborhood Disputes

To the criticism that some say that the new law can not be complained against, Eric Holst said:

"People should not have permission to complain about everything. By far the most environmental cases are really trivial neighborhood disputes, where an oil furnace, for example, smokes too much. That should be decided by the elected officials of the locality. If, on the other hand, they complain to us, we could rapidly expand our administration to twice the size."

The minister of environment wondered about the opposition that the environment law has met in agriculture.

"These are people who live directly from the land, and who must be interested in protecting nature. When the old law was passed the opposition from agriculture was so great that the Liberal Party flew apart. In the meantime our society has acquired a greater understanding of the environment, and the farmers must now be glad that business firms can not do anything they want to in the Danish islands. Then they would look like the Rhine in West Germany."

In The Folketing

Erik Holst will decide this week or next on his meetings with interested organizations. He expects to present his final bill before the government's environment committee on 5 November, and before the Folketing on 17 November.

The previous environment law was passed in 1973 with the votes of the Social Democratic Party and the Conservative Party alone. The Radical Liberal Party abstained from voting, while the Liberal Party and the Socialist People's Party voted against.

9287

CSO: 5000/2015

BRIEFS

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY INCREASING TESTING--The environment agency will use more money in product development. That was reported in a piece which also tells rather briefly of the work of the past year. One of the reports says that between 1,000 and 30,000 Danes are so loaded with the dangerous environmental poison cadmium that they risk having nerve damage. Their backs are most vulnerable. The air pollution laboratory continues taking measurements in seven Danish cities--and there are also plans to investigate the amount of sulfur in the smoke which goes over Sweden. Many Swedish lakes are now so acid that the fish are dying. By the end of 1982 there will be an evaluation of the possibilities of storing highly radioactive waste in salt beds, and a safety report. The fresh water laboratory at Silkeborg has established that maintenance of the Danish islands in some cases conflicts with the counties' goals--and with efforts to protect a well-rounded animal and plant life. In addition to the investigations at the agency's three laboratories, 9 million kroner is spent annually for projects carried out in cooperation with universities and with ATV [Academy of Technical Sciences] institutions. [Text] [Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 26 Oct 81 p 7] 9287

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